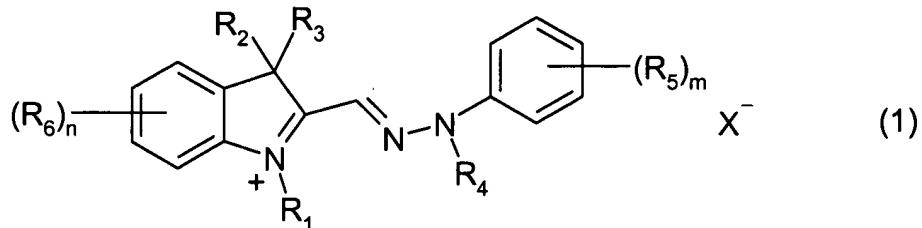


In the Claims

1. (currently amended): An organic solvent-based printing ink composition which comprises
(1) a-one or more cationic dyestuff of formula (1),



~~or a mixture thereof,~~

wherein R₁-R₆ are independently of one another hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or allyl, R₂ and R₃ may be combined together to form a ring,

further R₅ and R₆ are also independently of one another halogen, cyano, nitro, aryloxy, alkenyl, alkenoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, acyloxy, acyl, alkylthio, arylthio, acylamino, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl or thiocyanato, any two of R₅ or any two of R₆ may be combined together to form a homocyclic or heterocyclic aromatic or non-aromatic ring,

m is an integer of 1 to 5,

n is an integer of 1 to 4 and

X⁻ is an organic anion,

(2) an organic solvent,

(3) an organic resin acid, or a salt thereof, soluble in the organic solvent, and

(4) optionally a pigment.

2. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 1, wherein R₁-R₆ in the dyestuffs of formula (1) are independently of one another hydrogen, unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or alkoxy of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 5 to 10 carbon atoms, aryl of 6 to 10 carbon atoms, heteroaryl of

5 to 10 atoms, comprising one or more nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atoms as ring members, or allyl, R₂ and R₃ may be combined together to form a 5 to 7-membered ring,
~~, and X⁻, m and n have the meanings indicated.~~

3. (currently amended): A composition according to claim 2, wherein substituted alkyl comprises hydroxyalkyl, halogenoalkyl, aminoalkyl, cyanoalkyl or arylalkyl, substituted alkoxy comprises arylalkoxy, and aryl ~~preferably~~ comprises phenyl or naphthyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy-, halogeno-, amino-, cyano-, carboxy-, carbonamido-, sulfo- or sulfonamido.

4. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 2, wherein R₁-R₄ are methyl, R₅ is methyl or methoxy (~~m is 1~~) when m is 1, or two R₅ together form -O-CH₂-O-CH₂-, R₆ is hydrogen and n is 1.

5. (currently amended): The composition according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 4~~, wherein X⁻ is the anion of an organic acid, ~~preferably a resin acid~~.

6. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the organic solvent (2) is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of optionally aliphatic hydrocarbons, halogenated aliphatic hydrocarbons, optionally aromatic hydrocarbons, halogenated aromatic hydrocarbons, ~~preferably of the benzene series~~, dialkylethers, glycol ethers, (non-polar) alcohols, esters, ketones, solubilising ink vehicle components and monomers (acrylate monomers) ~~, and mixtures thereof~~.

7. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 5, wherein the resin acid (3) is an organo-soluble acid selected from the group consisting of rosin acid, abietyl resin, colophony or derivatives thereof, ~~in particular chemically modified resin acids~~.

8. (original): The composition according to claim 1, which comprises
0.1 - 50 % by weight of component (1),
1 - 95% % by weight of component (2),
0.1 – 75 % of component (3), and
0 - 50 % of component (4).

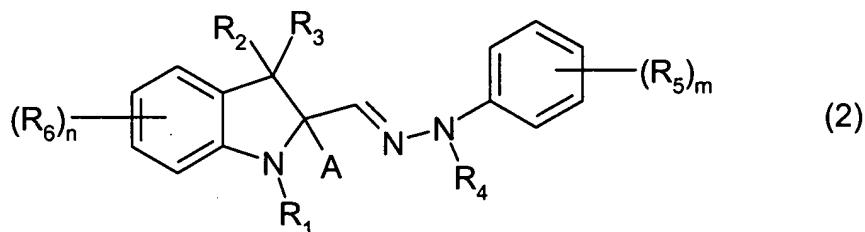
9. (currently amended): The composition according to ~~any one of claim [[s]] 1 to 8~~ which additionally comprises an ink vehicle resin or binder.

10. (currently amended): The composition according to ~~any one of claim [[s]] 1 to 9~~ wherein the organic solvent is a non-polar organic solvent.

11. (currently amended): The composition according to ~~any one of claim [[s]] 1 to 10~~ wherein the printing ink composition is a gravure printing ink composition. [[,]]

12. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of printing ink compositions according to claim 1 which process comprises mixing together

(a1) at least one [[a]] carbinol dye precursor of the formula (2)



or a mixture thereof, dissolved or dispersed in an organic solvent,

wherein R₁-R₆ are independently of one another hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or allyl, R₂ and R₃ may be combined together to form a ring,

further R₅ and R₆ are also independently of one another halogen, cyano, nitro, aryloxy, alkenyl, alkenoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, acyloxy, acyl, alkylthio, arylthio, acylamino, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl or thiocyanato,

any two of R₅ or any two of R₆ may be combined together to a homocyclic or heterocyclic aromatic or non-aromatic ring,

A is -OR, -N(R)₂, -N(R)COR, -N(R)SO₂R, -SR, -S(O)R, -O₂CR, -N(R)CON(R)₂, -OCON(R)₂, -SO₂N(R)₂ or -N(R)COOR, wherein R is R₁,

m is an integer of 1 to 5 and n is an integer of 1 to 4, with

(b) a solution of an organic acid, preferably an organic resin acid, dissolved in an organic solvent, and with

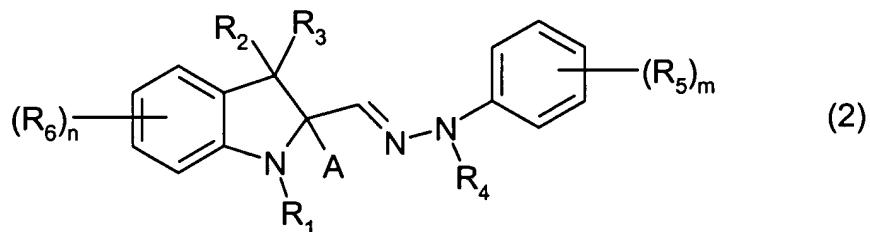
(c) optionally a pigment.

13. (currently amended): The process according to claim 12, wherein R₁-R₆ in the carbinol dye precursor of formula (2) are independently of one another hydrogen, unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or alkoxy of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 5 to 10 carbon atoms, aryl of 6 to 10 carbon atoms, heteroaryl of 5 to 10 atoms, comprising one or more nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atoms as ring members, or allyl, R₂ and R₃ may be combined together to form a 5 to 7-membered ring, and

~~A m and n have the meanings indicated.~~

14. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of gravure printing ink compositions according to claim 1 which process comprises mixing together

(a) [[a]] at least one carbinol dye precursor of the formula (2)



~~or a mixture thereof, dissolved or dispersed in an organic solvent,~~

wherein R₁-R₆ are independently of one another hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or allyl, R₂ and R₃ may be combined together to form a ring,

further R₅ and R₆ are also independently of one another halogen, cyano, nitro, aryloxy, alkenyl, alkenoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, acyloxy, acyl, alkylthio, arylthio, acylamino, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl or thiocyanato, any two of R₅ or any two of R₆ may be combined together to a homocyclic or heterocyclic aromatic or non-aromatic ring,

A is -OR, -N(R)₂, -N(R)COR, -N(R)SO₂R, -SR, -S(O)R, -O₂CR, -N(R)CON(R)₂, -OCON(R)₂, -SO₂N(R)₂ or -N(R)COOR, wherein R is R₁,

m is an integer of 1 to 5 and n is an integer of 1 to 4, with

(b) a solution of an organic acid, preferably an organic resin acid, dissolved in an organic solvent, evaporating off the solvent (under reduced pressure) from that mixture until a dry mixture is obtained, and redissolving the dry mixture in an organic solvent compatible with the printing ink system, and with

(c) optionally an organic pigment.

15. (currently amended): The process according to claim 14, wherein R₁-R₆ in the carbinol dye precursor of formula (2) are independently of one another hydrogen, unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or alkoxy of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 5 to 10 carbon atoms, aryl of 6 to 10 carbon atoms, heteroaryl of 5 to 10 atoms, comprising one or more nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atoms as ring members, or allyl, R₂ and R₃ may be combined together to form a 5 to 7-membered ring, and

~~A, m and n have the meanings indicated.~~

16. (currently amended): The process according to claim 15, wherein R₁-R₄ are methyl, R₅ is methyl or methoxy (~~m is 1 or two or two~~ R₅ together form -O-CH₂-O-CH₂-, R₆ is hydrogen, A is -OH, m is 1 or 2 and n is 1.

17. (original): The process according to claim 12, wherein components (b) and (c) together constitute a resinated pigment.

18. (currently amended): The process according to ~~any of claim [s]~~ 12 to 17, wherein the organic solvent for component (b) is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of ~~optionally~~ halogenated aliphatic hydrocarbons, ~~optionally~~ halogenated aromatic hydrocarbons, ~~preferably of the benzene series~~, dialkylethers, glycol ethers, ~~(non-polar)~~ alcohols, esters, ketones, solubilising ink vehicle components, monomers (acrylate monomers), and mixtures thereof.

19. (currently amended): The process according to any one of claim [[s]] 14 to 16, wherein the organic solvent for component (b) is a member selected from the group consisting of halogenated aliphatic hydrocarbons, dialkylethers and ketones[[,]] and the organic solvent for the redissolving step is a member selected from the group consisting of aromatic hydrocarbons, aliphatic alcohols and esters.

20. (original): The process according to claim 14, which additionally comprises mixing an ink vehicle with components (a), (b) and optionally (c).

21. (original): The process according to claim 14, which additionally comprises mixing an ink vehicle with the combined dry or redissolved components (a) and (b), and optionally component (c).

22. (original): The process for the preparation of printing ink compositions according to claim 1, which comprises dry mixing components (a) with an organic (resin) acid, and optionally with component (c), and then co-dissolving this mixture in an organic solvent.

23. (original): The dry mixture of components (a), the organic (resin) acid, and optionally (c), used in the process according to claim 22.

24. (original): The co-dissolved mixture of components (a), the organic (resin) acid, and optionally (c) obtained according to claim 22.

25. (currently amended): The process according to claim 2022, which comprises dry mixing components (a), the organic (resin) acid, and optionally (c), and an ink vehicle, and then co-dissolving this mixture in an organic solvent.

26. (original): The dry mixture of components (a), the organic (resin) acid, optionally (c), and an ink vehicle used in the process according to claim 25.

27. (original): The co-dissolved mixture of components (a), the organic (resin) acid, optionally (c), and an ink vehicle obtained according to the process of claim 25.

28. (currently amended): The process according to claim 20 22, which comprises incorporating components (a), the organic (resin) acid, and optionally (c) separately or as dry mix into preformed ink vehicles.

29. (original): The process according to claim 25, which comprises extruding the components (a), the organic (resin) acid, and optionally (c) separately or as dry mix into high solids dispersions, solutions or pastes of the ink vehicles.

30. (original): The extrusion products obtained according to the process of claim 29.

31. (cancelled).

32. (cancelled).

33. (cancelled).

34. (currently amended): Process for printing which comprises printing a flat substrate with a printing ink composition according to ~~any one of~~ claim [[s]] 1 ~~to~~ 10.

35. (currently amended): Process for printing which comprises printing a flat substrate with a predominantly pigment based printing ink containing a composition[[s]] according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~to~~ 10 as toning agents.

36. (currently amended): Process according to ~~any one of~~ claim 34 or 35 wherein the printing process is a publication or packaging gravure, flexographic, lithographic or letterpress printing process.

37. (new): The composition according to claim 5, wherein X^- is the anion of an organic resin acid.

38. (new): Process according to claim 35 wherein the printing process is a publication or packaging gravure, flexographic, lithographic or letterpress printing process.